



## वीवीके के तहत मैंग्रोव और उनके सहयोगियों के क्षेत्र की पहचान पर एक रिपोर्ट

### **A Report on Field Identification of Mangroves and their Associates under VVK**

The ICFRE-Coastal Ecosystem Centre, Visakhapatnam under ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity Conducted VVK Training on Field Identification of Mangrove and their associates on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Coringa Wild Life Sanctuary, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, which is claimed as one of the best managed mangrove forests in India. The Coringa region, the abutting coastal area, and its associated open sea ecosystems, including Kakinada Bay, are rich in floral and faunal diversity, and also generate other ecological and economic benefits such as shoreline protection, ecosystem-based livelihoods, and carbon sink services.

Mangrove forests situated in these deltaic wetlands cover an area of 32,140 hectares. In total, there are 35 species of mangroves of which 16 are true mangroves and the rest are associated mangrove species. In this region, there is one nearly threatened (IUCN) mangrove species (*Ceriops decandra*) which is not reported in other adjoining areas and there are three rare species (*Sonneratia alba*, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea* and *Xylocarpus moluccensis*). This is probably the only place in India where three species of *Avicennia*, i.e. *Avicennia officinalis*, *Avicennia marina*, and *Avicennia alba* are found together in mixed forests.

The main objective of organizing training in this region was to create awareness about the importance of the mangrove ecosystems, different kinds of mangroves and their importance to the forest department staff and the local public.

Detailed description, photographs and distribution of each and every mangrove species known around the region help to strengthen the existing knowledge base for better management. Inadequate understanding of the mangrove plants is often identified as causes for failure many restoration/rehabilitation initiatives. So, it is anticipated that this program on field identification of mangroves and their associates will promote greater protection, increased propagation, as well as better appreciation of these species and the forests in which they occur. A total of 20 participants from Andhra Pradesh Forest department and local public participated in the program.

The program was inaugurated by Shri T. Srinivas, Scientist-B, and In-Charge, ICFRE-CEC who welcomed the gathering. Shri D. Mahesh babu, Biologist of the Coringa Wild Life Sanctuary, was the Chief Guest of the program. He spoke about the Mangrove environment and biodiversity, and shared his field-level experiences in mangrove biodiversity conservation and importance of birds.

Later, Dr. Bharati Patel, Scientist-B, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad delivered her speech. She expressed her views on the mangrove ecosystem importance, various biodiversity of the region and their conservation, etc.

Followed by this a presentation was given by smt T. Anusha, Technician, ICFRE-CEC on Mangroves, their importance, adaptations, uses of mangroves and human threats.

The lecture program was followed by identification of mangroves and their associates in the field by explaining the various taxonomic and phenological characteristics with the detailed photographs to the forest department staff and local public.

In closing, the participants appreciated the efforts of ICFRE-CEC, Visakhapatnam for bringing this impressive training program. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Smt. T. Anusha, Technician. The overall program was coordinated by Smt. T. Anusha, Technician and assisted by Shri T. Devaraju, MTS, ICFRE-CEC.

## FEW GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



